

MRS. SARAH TOWNSEND.

JANUARY 28, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. LOUDENSLAGER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 2959.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2959) granting a pension to Mrs. Sarah Townsend, have considered the same, and respectfully report as follows:

Said bill is accompanied by Senate Report No. 1251, this session, and the same fully stating the facts, is adopted by your committee as their report, and the bill is returned with a favorable recommendation.

[Senate Report No. 1251, Fifty-fourth Congress, second session.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2959) granting a pension to Sarah Townsend, have examined the same, and report:

Sarah Townsend is the widow of Noah Townsend, who served as a private in Capt. C. C. Coffee's Independent Company Florida Volunteers, from December 24, 1846, to January 8, 1848. The soldier claimed and was granted a pension of \$8 per month under the act of January 29, 1887, as a survivor of the Mexican war. This pension he drew up to the last day of payment before his death, October 24, 1891. After the soldier's death his widow filed a claim for widow's pension, which was rejected, on the ground that the soldier's service was not rendered in Mexico, on the coast or frontier thereof, or en route thereto.

The records of the War Department show that the soldier's service was rendered at Fort Brooks, Fla., during the Mexican war. It was made necessary by that war, and was recognized by the Pension Office as sufficient to confer title to pension on the soldier himself. Since title for the widow is conferred by the same law under which the soldier was pensioned, service which was sufficient to entitle him was also sufficient to give her title to pension.

Your committee therefore recommend that the bill do pass with two amendments: Amend by inserting the word "eight" before the word "dollars," in line 6, so as to make the rate \$8 per month. Also amend by inserting after name of claimant, in line 5, the following: "A private in Capt. C. C. Coffee's Independent Company Florida Volunteers."